

New Jersey PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
PRESENTS



# SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK

A Unique Community-Based Music Residency

*Special Performance*

7:00 pm June 21, 1995

SIGN-LANGUAGE INTERPRETED FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

McCarter Theater, Princeton

MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM THE TURRELL FUND



## *NJPAC Community-Based Music Residency*

The Community-Based Music Residency is designed to expand and enrich the cultural experiences of children and their parents through performances, workshops and educational materials focusing on the life-affirming activities of Sweet Honey in the Rock. This residency provides an opportunity for participants to explore and nurture their creativity and artistic voice as well as understand how music is shaped by social and cultural influences. This project involves some 300 young people and adults from participating organizations in the Trenton/Princeton area who will attend workshops conducted by a cappella singers Sweet Honey in the Rock, as well as workshops and performances by Return to the Source, a New Jersey musical ensemble. Workshops will focus on such topics as self-esteem, role modeling, cultural literacy and female empowerment.

Staff and parents from the participating organizations in Trenton and Princeton will attend workshops on May 15 and 16 where they will receive training and orientation in the use of the educational resource materials. Return to the Source Workshops and Performances will take place from May 26 - June 9 where the musical group will share the sound, history and growth of their music through a mini-performance, a participatory workshop, question and answer sessions and a meet-the-artist session. Sweet Honey in the Rock members will conduct workshops on June 20 and June 22 the days preceding and following the Sweet Honey concert.

Approximately 500 other children and adults from community organizations in Essex County will receive educational resource materials and attend a free community concert by Sweet Honey in the Rock at the McCarter Theater in Princeton on June 21.

## *Sweet Honey in the Rock*

Sweet Honey in the Rock is one of the world's most renowned a cappella groups and one of America's premier folk groups celebrating the human spirit and the power to effect change through music. The quintet of African-American female singers have been performing its unique harmonies and riveting lyrics for over 20 years, recording no less than a dozen albums. Members of the group include Ysaye Maria Barnwell, Nitanju Bolade Casel, Carol Millard, Aisha Kahlil, Bernice Johnson Reagon and Shirley Childress Johnson.

## *Return to the Source*

For 10 years, Return to the Source has chronicled the evolution of African-American music, ranging from spirituals, to blues to jazz and rap, through its voice and sound. The musical ensemble has presented educational and entertaining programs for more than 60 inner city and suburban schools. Return to the Source performs in a similar style and shares a similar philosophy with Sweet Honey in the Rock.

## *NJPAC Arts Education Department*

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center's Arts Education Department will provide the state's youngest citizens with a creative environment that nurtures exploration and discovery in the production and performance of the arts. The Community-Based Music Residency embodies the benchmarks which will be common to all NJPAC arts education programs; exposure to high quality artistic work; hands-on opportunities for children to participate in the artistic process; and, an arts education resource for children locally and statewide.

## *Community-Based Music Residency Participants*

### *Core Groups:*

Afrikan People's Action School, *Trenton*

Martin House, *Trenton*

Isles, *Trenton*

The Summer Theater Camp of the Peddie School,  
*Hightstown*

Princeton Young Achievers, *Princeton*

### *Additional Participating Organizations:*

Protestant Community Center, *Newark*

Tri-City People's Corporation, *Newark*

Boys and Girls Club, *Newark*

New Community Corporation, *Newark*

Urban League of Essex County, *Newark*

International Youth Organization, *Newark*

Aspira, *Newark*

Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex County,  
*Montclair*

## *SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK Performance*

All 800 children and their parents participating in the Community-Based Music Residency will be the guests of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center at a gala performance by Sweet Honey in the Rock on June 21 at 7pm at McCarter Theater in Princeton. The concert is presented in cooperation with the Carter G. Woodson Foundation and McCarter Theater. It will provide an opportunity for families who because of economic circumstances may not have the opportunity to enjoy cultural experiences which can be effective in transforming self-perceptions and stimulating change in one's life and surroundings.

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